

 SECRET

Re : O's trip to Prague, CSR, and his contact with # 1  
*AECASSOWARY/36*

Date : 20 July 1965

*see attached for details*

1. From 16 to 20 June 1965 O. stayed in PRAGUE, CSR where he went with a group of lecturers and students of his University to participate in the Kafka Conference. They went by a chartered bus via CHEB-EGER and returned via ROZWADOW. The documents control by Czecks was very meticulous but still they forgot to put entry stamp on driver's passport and because of that the bus was delayed for more than an hour on the way back. The Czech custom officers had to phone to the place of entry and only after they got clarification from there, let the bus go.

The baggage control was very superficial in both directions. The customs ~~told~~ to open two or three suitcases, made a perfunctory check and let go. When <sup>one</sup> of the group was going to photograph his suitcase with the customs officer leaned over the latter became quite angry and threatened with confiscating his camera. The CEDOK guide who accompanied them commented later on that they were lucky the customs officer did not "revenge" himself in his usual way by ordering a full scale baggage and body inspection because of that. This had meant at least a 6 hours "business" in their case.

The customs were very strict about money and objects of value declarations. All ~~imported~~ money and objects like camera, taperecorders etc have to be declared and all exchange receipts kept for eventual control on the way back. Every tourist or visitor must exchange DM 12.- per day according to official rate (DM 1 equals CKr 4 and something, on the black market DM 1 equals CKr 7.40).

The border is strictly ~~maxxim~~ guarded. There are three lines of barbed wire fence in about 1 km distance between them. O saw at least one ploughed strip 3-4 m wide, running along the barbed wire fence, and watch towers. There are 3 barriers before the frontier and one at the narrow entry-exit at the frontier itself.

On the way back the bus was checked underneath and <sup>in</sup> all places where something bigger could be hidden, most probably they were looking for "illegal passengers."

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O's group was given a CEDOK guide who was accompanying them all the time in Prague and on the way home to the frontier.

2. In Prague O. met # 1 and his wife. He brought them the following : Ukraina i Rossiya by Kononenko Exampl. 1

Ne Dla Ditey by Shrekh " 1

Panorama... by Koshelivets I. " 1

Lehkosynia Dal " 1

Vyvid Prav Ukrainy " 1

Novi Poezivi # 1 " 1

Vinok Zhyttia by O Tarnavskyi " 1

Reprint of Symonenko's poetry from ShP 3

La Folla with the articles on Symonenko and the Arson of Kiev Library 1

Reprint of the article on Virskyi from Sushasnist 2

plus German books on Slavistics 8

3. All books O. had brought them on <sup>the</sup> previous trip had been already delivered to Kiev. O. was given by # 1 , in his turn, the following : 2 poems by Symonenko (typed)

The speech of Svitlychnyi held at Symonenko's anniversary in Kiev 1964, several poems by DRACH, SYNHAIVSKYI and others, incl. KOROTYCH. Some of those poems were already published, one poem by DRACH was in handwriting.

4. # 1 had no detailed data at that time as to what had happened in Kiev in the aftermath of Symonenko-affair. They knew only that there was "some pressure" in Kiev but they did not expect any severe reprisals. Late summer or early autumn # 1 hoped to be in Kiev again and eventually bring a new "contingent" of zakhalavna literature.

5. The Czeeks were publishing an anthology of Shestydesiatnyky and it would appear pretty soon. In the meantime they already published DRACH and HUTSALO. # 1 and "others" in Prague were doing all they could to get published as much as possible and so far had found much understanding on the part of Czeeks .

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6. According to # 1 , the Lviv Institute of Sovial Sciences was in 1964 incorporated into Lviv University . This meant a restriction of its authonomy and particularly of finacial resources . Moreover that the new RECTOR,MAKSYMOVYCH is much less concerned with humanities than his predecessor LAZORENKO.

7. O. was told that at the present there was a strong revival of Ukrainian literary interests <sup>in Presov-region</sup> concentrated mainly around the journal Dukla. Even some former graduates of Russian schools joined it and began to write in Ukrainian. To them belongs,for instance, MATSINSKY. They enjoy <sup>the</sup> support of some Czek and Slovak liberal circles. Dukla -circle maintains also good contacts with Kiev group.

The revival of Ukrainian activities in Presov region is quite remarkable moreover in view of previous developments. In 1930's there were only Russian primary and secondary schools which were turned into Slovak in 1939 - 1945. Then , in 1945, after the war the Russian schools were re-established and in 1951 transformed into Ukrainian ones. There was no particular joy about it among local population because this "reform" was introduced without proper preparation and the literary Soviet Ukrainian was quite strange to local dialect. When in 1953, after Stalin's death, Slovaks let parents decide what schools they wanted to have - Ukrainian or Slovak - the majority opted for the latter. Moreover , that at the same time there were rumors spread that in case the population would decide for Ukrainian schools , the Presov-region had to be incorporated into Ukrainian Republic.

Still ,in recent years the Ukrainian revival took place. Slovaks had also somewhat changed their policy towards Ukrainians, being mainly concerned with the Hungarian minority.

8. In 1964 # 2 and # 3 took part at Slavonic Courses in Prague. In May 1965 # 1 saw # 2 in Presov, during Dukhnovych celebrations. There was an official Ukrainian delegation from Kiev and # 2 was one of its member. Only one representative of the Ministry of Culture of UkrSSR could come directly from KIEV ,all the others had to go via MOSCOW. Because of that there was a general dissatisfaction among the members of the Delegation moreover after they had to use the same route on the way home. Local Ukrainians in Presov made quite a few comments as to "this circus" with Moscow and Ukrainian delegated"agreed more or less" with them.

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9. # 1 told O that a Czek friend of his had brought him an issue of Suchasnist from OSADCHUK, Bogdan of Berlin. # 1 and the latter went together to a grammar school in Crocow, Poland, in 1941.

# 1 hoped to come to the Congress of History , to Vienna,Austria, in Aug/Sep 1965.

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To the Report of 20 July 1965 :

- 0 - Dr Horbatsch of Frankfurt/Main
- # 1 - Zelinskyi,Orest of Prague,CSR
- # 2 - Prof DZENDZELIVSKYI,Josyp of Uzhgorod Uni.,
- # 3 - SHEVCHUK,Vasyl of Institute of Literature,Kiev

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